

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION declaring the City Council's intent to explore locating a significant public open space in the Belltown neighborhood and purchasing suitable property as a capital improvement, and requesting that the Executive direct the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation to undertake feasibility, siting and acquisition studies.

WHEREAS, since the 1974 *Denny Regrade Development Plan*, the City of Seattle's land use policies have targeted the Belltown area, for creation of a dense, urban residential neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, since that time the density of households in Belltown has increased more than any other neighborhood in downtown or elsewhere throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, former planning documents, including the 1984 *Mayor's Recommended Land Use & Transportation Plan for Downtown Seattle*, identified the need for a significant public park in Belltown to improve neighborhood livability; and

WHEREAS, the 1984 plan even went to the extent of identifying frontage on 3rd Avenue as desirable and describing a concept of "contrasting green, open area and recreational space amidst concentrated residential development;" and

WHEREAS, recent plans for development of public recreation facilities, such as the Belltown community center, have been unsuccessful thus far; and

WHEREAS, existing and planned public open spaces, such as the Olympic Sculpture Park, do not provide the same type of family-friendly urban amenity as a public park; and

WHEREAS, *Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000*, establishes open space population-based goals for urban center villages of one acre of usable open space per 1000 households and distribution-based goals for urban center villages of usable open space within 1/8 of a mile of every household; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation *Open Space Gap Report* indicates that over half of Belltown is outside of open space service areas established through distribution-based goals; and

WHEREAS, in March 2005, the Council adopted Resolution 30759, which identifies "Provision of Public Open Space and Urban Recreational Opportunities" as a guiding principle in review of land use planning endeavors downtown; and

WHEREAS, in reviewing elements of the Executive's Center City Strategy, the Council has identified the provision of public open space and family-friendly amenities as desirable means to ensuring downtown livability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council hereby declares its intent to explore the feasibility of siting a significant public open space with family-friendly amenities and opportunities for both passive and active recreation in the Belltown neighborhood.

Section 2. The Council requests that the Executive direct the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) to undertake feasibility, siting and acquisition studies of potential park sites, not less than a half block in size in the Belltown neighborhood. Additionally, the Council requests that the Executive direct Parks to study the feasibility of expanding the Green Street program in Belltown to include conversion of Green Streets to linear parks or street parks, where appropriate. The Council further requests that the Executive provide a progress report to the Council's Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee, or its successor Committee, by July 1, 2006 and final report by September 1, 2006.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2006, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day of _____, 2006.

President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Mayor

1 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2006.

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City Clerk

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